

## REMARKS

Claims 7-9, 13-15, 19-21, and 25-27 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Publication No. 2002/0103932 to Bilbrey et al. Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection.

The Examiner assumes a general DNS (domain name system) server and asserts that the processing performed by the present invention is obvious. However, the following processes of the present invention are not performed as part of the name resolution processing of the DNS server: when a message address of a member of a message exchanging group is changed, determining a message list which includes the old address of the members, extracting message addresses of the rest of the members of the determined message address list, determining domain information associated with each of the rest of the members of the determined message list, specifying a server to which the absence response information is to be provided based upon the determined domain information, and distributing the absence response information to the specified server or servers.

The general DNS server merely returns address information to a server that made an inquiry of address information on receiving the inquiry. The processing performed by the claimed invention differs greatly from the name solution processing.

The Bilbrey et al. reference merely discloses that the system can update the Sponsor DB only when it receives the registered user's acceptance of updating information.

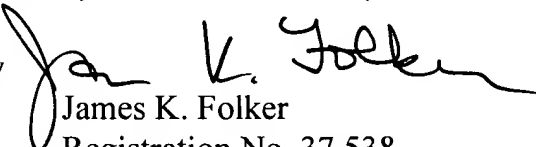
Applicants submit that one of ordinary skill in the art would not make the claimed invention from general knowledge of name resolution processing of the DNS server

in view of Bilbrey et al., since the combination of processing of DNS server and Bilbrey et al. itself would seem unreasonable.

For all of the above reasons, Applicant requests reconsideration and allowance of the claimed invention. Should the Examiner be of the opinion that a telephone conference would aid in the prosecution of the application, or that outstanding issues exist, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned attorney.

Respectfully submitted,

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